

Message Text

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INFO CINCPAC HONOLULU HI
SECSTATE WASHDC 5983

UNCLAS TAIPEI 0052

USIAC

USIA FOR IEA, IOR; CINCPAC FOR USIA ADVISER; SECSTATE FOR EA

E.O. 11652: N/A
SUBJECT: HIGHLIGHTS

1. ATMOSPHERICS:

-- CARTER SIX-NATION TRIP RECEIVING HEADLINE TREATMENT MOST PAPERS. COVERAGE BASED ON STRAIGHT WIRE SERVICE REPORTING. LEADING DAILY UNITED DAILY NEWS (LIEN HO PAO; 600,000) CARRIED FULL USIA TEXT BRIZEZINSKI DECEMBER 20 BRIEFING MINUS PORTION ON WORLD POPULATION FACTS AND FIGURES. EDITORIALY PAPERS FOCUSED ON CARTER MESSAGE OF HUMAN RIGHTS, EMPHASIZING MENTION MADE BY CARTER OF CHINA IN CONJUNCTION WITH RUSSIA AND UGANDA ON THIS SUBJECT IN PRE-DEPARTURE TV INTERVIEW. "ONLY IF U.S. ADHERES TO ITS PRINCIPLE OF EQUAL HUMAN RIGHTS FOR ALL PEOPLE, CAN IT STRENGTHEN ITS PRESTIGE AS WORLD LEADER," COMMENTED MASS CIRCULATION CHINA TIMES (CHUNG KUO SHIH PAO; 530,000).

-- ON CHINA POLICY MANY PAPERS TOOK ADVANTAGE OF YEAREND TO REVIEW U.S.-ROC RELATIONS. GENERAL TENOR OF COMMENT WAS CAUTIOUS, STRESSING "STAGNATION" IN U.S.-PRC RELATIONS AND "GRASSROOTS SUPPORT" AMERICAN PEOPLE AS OPTIMISTIC SIGNS,
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BUT NOTING U.S. HAS NOT ABANDONED POLICY OF NORMALIZATION. COMMENT EXEMPLIFIED BY REPORT FROM CHINA TIMES WASHINGTON CORRESPONDENT WHO SAW NOTHING SPECIAL OCCURRING IN U.S.-ROC RELATIONS IN 1978 AS CARTER ADMINISTRATION STILL OCCUPIED WITH PANAMA, SALT AND MIDEAST. HOWEVER, "NORMALIZATION CRISIS IS STILL THERE SO LONG AS U.S. MAINTAINS ITS CONTACTS WITH PEKING. ROC SHOULD NEVER FOOL ITSELF THAT U.S. WILL

ONE DAY ABANDON ITS NORMALIZATION ATTEMPT WITH PEKING."
ON OTHER HAND, REPORT SAID, U.S. OFFICIALS ADMIT IMPORTANCE
OF TAIWAN AND THERE IS LITTLE POSSIBILITY OF U.S.-PRC
RELATIONS IF PEKING INSISTS ON ITS THREE CONDITIONS FOR
NORMALIZATION. REPORT CLOSED BY NOTING U.S. OFFICIALS CLOSELY
WATCHING DEVELOPMENTS ON TAIWAN, ESPECIALLY WHETHER PREMIER
CHIANG WILL RUN FOR PRESIDENT. THESE OFFICIALS REPORTEDLY
EMPHASIZED "EXTREME IMPORTANCE" FOR ROC OF HAVING STRONG
LEADERSHIP OF CHIANG IN PRESENT TIME OF DIFFICULTIES.

-- ON CHUNGLI INCIDENT, PAPERS REPORT POLICE HAVE IDENTIFIED
20 MORE SUSPECTS TO BE QUESTIONED LATER. CHINA TIMES REPORTED
AUTHORITIES HAVE DECIDED NOT TO BOTHER THOSE WHO PROVED
TO BE "BLIND FOLLOWERS." "EXTREME CAUTION AND CONSIDER-
ATIONXYU AUTHORITIES ARE BEING APPLIED TO CHUNGLI CASE,"
PAPER SAID.

2. PROGRAM ACTIVITIES:

NOTHING SIGNIFICANT TO REPORT.
AYERS

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